

SPO/NMSP Sustainable Seas Expeditions Planning Team

Meeting Summary December 3, 1998

Attendees: Steve Gittings (MSD), Dan Basta (SP), Michael Weiss (GCOS), Maureen Warren (SP), John McDonough (SP), Paul Orlando (SP), Tom LaPointe (SP), Paula Souik (MSD), Craig Russell (SP), Davida Remer (SP), Brian Johnson (SP)

Meeting Discussion

I. Sanctuary Managers Briefing

Dan Basta, Justin Kenney, and John McDonough presented a report to the National Marine Sanctuary managers on the status of Sustainable Seas Expeditions. Tom LaPointe, lead of the SSE Web Site development team, provided a brief overview of the plans for the SSE Web site. During the meeting, it was recommended that a pilot uniform for SSE submersible pilots be developed or acquired. The uniform should properly display the SSE name and logo.

II. Legal Issues (Leads: Maureen Warren, Michael Weiss, Todd Jacobs)

Several meetings have been held to finalize the first draft of the Joint Project Agreement.

<p>TASK: Todd Jacobs will provide John McDonough with the first draft by COB Friday, December 4, 1998.</p>

Michael Weiss met with attorneys from National Geographic Society after the TAC Meeting (11/20). During the meeting, two issues were raised and will continue to be discussed: liability; and, intellectual property. NGS expressed concern over ownership of the proposed Web site photo gallery images. Michael Weiss will continue to meet with the Education and Outreach group to discuss NOS priorities and foreseeable image and materials requirements. Steve Gittings raised additional concern over rights to scientific data. Michael Weiss will follow up with NGS once NOS priorities and requirements are established. This is a high priority issue and will be resolved as soon as possible. SSE working group members should provide Michael Weiss with any product or image requirements as soon as possible. NGS has reportedly trademarked “Sustainable Seas” and “Sustainable Seas Expeditions” and will provide NOS with the appropriate fonts and related digital files for proper document formatting.

<p>TASK: Davida Remer will develop a summary matrix to detail NOS product, imagery and information requirements.</p>

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TASK: Maureen Warren will get the MOU and related issues reviewed with partners such as Sally Yozell and others.

III. Exhibits (Lead: Laura Francis)

Laura Francis and Justin Kenney met with Pete Allen to discuss NOAA Public Affairs opportunities to assist in exhibit development. The meeting scheduled with the New England Aquarium did not occur and will be rescheduled for a later date. As a result of several follow up meetings and discussions with SP/MSD personnel, three possibilities for exhibits were proposed:

1. SSE Exhibit in the National Geographic Society's Explorers' Hall;
2. Travelling SSE Exhibit, and;
3. Smaller exhibit at the New England Aquarium specifically related to Stellwagen National Marine Sanctuary.

In addition, 3 mock DeepWorker submersibles have been proposed and funding requests are pending.

IV. Web Site Development (Lead: Tom LaPointe)

Over the past few weeks the NGS SSE Web site development has begun. Many people will be contacted for draft content material. Christine Taylor began development of the Photo Gallery which should include only NOAA owned photographs. Christine will present a mockup to the SP/MSD Coordinating Group for additional design guidance.

TASK: Justin Kenney will identify someone from MSD to assist in image acquisition.

TASK: Brian Johnson will begin developing a "Mission Log" Calendar.

Next week, Tom LaPointe will meet with Gail Mead, Mission Log Coordinator, to discuss possibilities and plans for the Mission Log. Davida Remer, Ford Cochran, Justin Kenney, and a Sanctuaries science representative will attend this meeting.

TASK: Steve Gittings will identify a science representative to attend this meeting.

TASK: Tom LaPointe will notify appropriate personnel of the location and time for this meeting.

Sanctuary Web site development has not taken place yet. Development will not begin until after the New Year, at which point the Web site team will identify what will be required, including

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additional personnel resources. The goal is to have completed Web sites for Sanctuaries involved in Year 1 Expeditions. Dan Basta and Stephanie Thornton will meet to discuss future activities.

Due to limited personnel, the NOS SSE Internal Web site is currently on hold, but will begin development shortly.

V. Ship Schedules (Leads: Todd Jacobs, CAPT. Evelyn Fields)

West Coast ship schedules have been finalized and agreed upon, while East Coast and Gulf of Mexico ship schedule negotiations have yet to be finalized. There still remains question as to whether or not NOAA will be charged for return steam to PMC in Seattle. Normal contracts for ship time only require compensation for steam time to the research sites. CAPT. Evelyn Fields is working with ONCO to clear up this issue. In addition, ONCO informed the SSE that there will be seven days of open dockside time during which a variety of activities on-board the ship may take place, including an open-ship time for public boarding. Several other vessels have may also be available for ship time swaps with other offices.

VI. Dead Zone (Lead: Paul Orlando)

During the TAC meeting (11/20) Paul Orlando presented the Dead Zone project proposal and received positive feedback from the TAC. It was recommended that the Dead Zone (DZ) project be put on hold for Year 1 and separated from Sustainable Seas Expeditions as an independent project. Future activity related to the Dead Zone will begin after March 1999. The TAC also suggested that external funding be acquired for this project. Funding for ship time and DeepWorker will be pursued when activity resumes.

<p>TASK: Paul Orlando will distribute a summary memorandum to interested parties to relay the TAC decision and future activity schedule.</p>

VII. Submersible Pilot Training (Leads: Todd Jacobs, Dan Basta, Steve Gittings)

Additional refresher training will commence prior to the first West Coast expedition. Refresher course will be required for all previously trained and scheduled West Coast expedition pilots for Year 1. East Coast and Gulf of Mexico expedition pilots will also receive refresher training in Galveston at a date and location to be determined. In addition, Steve Gittings and Dan Basta are developing a certification process for training and refresher courses to help assess pilot performance and skills. NUYTCO will conduct the evaluation and give final approval on pilot accreditation. Similar evaluation and assessment will be conducted with pilots after each dive or

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deployment to identify areas of risk, improvement, and abilities specific to each pilot in order to improve effectiveness and reduce risks during future dives. Any process or documents produced by NOS for Certification will be provided to Michael Weiss for final review.

TASK: Steve Gittings and Dan Basta will develop dive certification process.

VIII. Mission Planning (Leads: Dan Basta, John McDonough, Todd Jacobs)

Next week, John McDonough will be in California to work with Channel Islands and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries on focusing on what will be done with research data and other aspects of the expeditions, such as contingencies, specifically related to each site. A follow-up summary or similar document will be developed as a result of the site visits and will be distributed to all Sanctuary Managers.

IX. NOS Working Groups (Leads: John McDonough, Dan Basta)

Support for the NOS Working Groups will gear up over the next few weeks, with a follow-up NOS Coordinating Group meeting scheduled for early January. Working Groups will be provided guidance for preparing an action plan, which will include resource requirements, end products, and other pertinent information. Final action plans will be presented to the NOS Senior Management Council for their approval and authorization to proceed with the action plans.

TASK: Submit all comments to John McDonough as soon as possible.

TASK: Craig Russell will distribute final guidance document to the NOS Working Groups by COB Friday, December 4, 1998.

TASK: John McDonough will identify someone from SP/MSD to assist the Data Management working group.

Future Meetings and Important Dates

- 12/9 - SP/MSD Working Group Meeting, 2:00pm, 9th Floor Large Conference Room
- 1/20 - Sanctuary Managers Meeting, Hawaii